

58 (New). A method of treating an oil or gas well having casing and tubing, the casing having a leak which has formed therein, comprising:

introducing a swellable composition into the annular space between the casing and the tubing, the composition comprising:  
water;  
a water soluble polymer;  
a water soluble crosslinking system;  
wherein the amounts of the polymer and the crosslinking system are effective to form a substantially uniformly reacted gel structure; and  
a swelling agent in an amount calculated to maintain or increase the volume of the gel a predetermined percentage when the swelling agent contacts the aqueous solution;  
forcing the swellable composition through the leak in the casing; and  
permitting gelation and swelling of the composition.

REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment to a newly-filed divisional application, the title has been amended to more accurately describe the invention being claimed in the case. The cross-reference to related applications has been amended to specify the divisional status of this application, and to update and correct the history

and status of prior applications. Composition claims 1-41 have been cancelled. Claim 43 has been amended to correct an error in use of "oil and gas" rather than "oil or gas" as used in the balance of the claims. Two new independent claims have been added.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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